

The Power of God's Word (Part 2) - Acts 17:5-6 – August 31st, 2008

- In chapter 16, on this the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey, Paul and Silas had left Philippi for Thessalonica.
- This mission's trip has been riddled with many trials along the way, but in concert with those trials there've been many miracles as well.
- Be that as it may, the Gospel is being preached, the Word is being spread, people are being saved, and churches are being planted.

- Upon their arrival in Thessalonica, they go to the local synagogue, as was Paul's custom, and begin to reason with them from the Word.
- Because they don't stop preaching the Word, the trials and tribulations, as well as the persecution and opposition won't stop either.
- Chapter 17 seems to me to be a needed reminder of how powerful God's Word is to overcome opposition and even persecution.

- This is part 2 of a study titled; "The Power of God's Word." My hope is that in this we can rediscover the importance of the Bible.
- I'm keenly aware that some might think that to know the power or importance of the Bible is a firm grasp of the obvious, and that's ok.
- Like I mentioned last week, my prayer is that, at the conclusion of this study, we will have a love for God's Word, like never before!

1. God's Word is reasonable (Verses 1-2) - Paul reasons with them from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

2. God's Word is persuasive (Verses 3-4) - Some Jews, a large number of Greeks, and prominent women are persuaded.

3. God's Word may start a riot (Verse 5)

5 But **the Jews were jealous**; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, **formed a mob and started a riot in the city.** They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

v5 The Jews were so jealous that they round up people with bad character, form a mob and start a riot in the city.

- After doing this they rush to a house owned by a believer named Jason searching for Paul and Silas in order to bring them into the riot.

Matthew 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. NIV

4. God's Word can turn things upside down (Verse 6)

6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men **who have caused trouble all over the world** have now come here,

v6a Tells us that when they didn't find Paul and Silas at Jason's home, they drug him and the other brothers before the city officials.

v6b Were told they were shouting that; "these men, who have caused all the trouble all over the world, have now come here."

- Other versions translate verse six as saying that they are the ones who; "have turned the world upside down."

"What a tribute to Paul and to the power of God's Word. Wherever Paul went, things happened. Souls were saved, people took sides, feelings were stirred, decisions were made, and the lines were drawn. Paul did not slip into town, hold a few quiet meetings, enjoy some good home cooking, pick up a generous honorarium, and slip back out of town again without the city knowing or caring that the gospel had been preached to all. Everybody knew when Paul came to town. Passions were stirred, things happened, the place was turned upside down."

John Phillips, "Exploring Acts, v2 pp. 339, 340